BATTLEWORLD
SECRET WARS JOURNAL #1
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SECRET WARS JOURNAL

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SECRET WARS

THE MULTIVERSE WAS DESTROYED!

•

THE HEROES OF EARTH-616 AND EARTH-1610 WERE POWERLESS TO SAVE IT!

•

NOW, ALL THAT REMAINS...IS **BATTLEWORLD**!

•

A MASSIVE, PATCHWORK PLANET COMPOSED OF THE FRAGMENTS OF WORLDS THAT NO LONGER EXIST, MAINTAINED BY THE IRON WILL OF ITS GOD AND MASTER, VICTOR VON DOOM!

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EACH REGION IS A DOMAIN UNTO ITSELF!

SECRET WARS JOURNAL

◆THE ARROWHEAD◆

WRITER: PRU SHEN

ARTIST: RAMON BACHS

COLOR ARTIST: JEAN-FRANCOIS BEAULIEU

◆WE WORSHIP WHAT WE DON'T UNDERSTAND◆

WRITER: MATTHEW ROSENBERG

ARTIST: LUCA PIZZARI

COLOR ARTIST: RAIN BEREDO

LETTERER: VC'S CORY PETIT

COVER ARTIST: KEVIN WADA

VARIANT COVER: ERIC NGUYEN

EDITOR: JAKE THOMAS

EDITOR IN CHIEF: AXEL ALONSO

CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER: JOE QUESADA

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KING JAMES' ENGLAND.
THE ARROWHEAD? THAT THIEF STOLE TWO CHESTS OF JEWELS FROM THE DUKE OF WESTCHESTER.
JUST TWO CHESTS? DO YOU NOT REMEMBER THE ARROWHEAD'S FIRST APPEARANCE? HE RANSACKED THE BISHOP ESTATE. POOR LADY KATE HAS TURNED QUITE THE HERMIT SINCE.
I HOPE THE PEASANTS ENJOY THEIR ILL-GOTTEN GAINS WHILE THEY CAN. I HEAR THE SHERIFF HAS AN ORB THAT WILL REVEAL THE ARROWHEAD ONCE AND FOR ALL.
ARE YOU STILL DETERMINED TO GO THROUGH WITH THIS TERRIBLE PLAN? THESE PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT US, KATE!
GIVE IT UP, TEDDY. JUST BE LIKE ME AND FAKE OPTIMISM.
IT DOESN'T MATTER. THE SHERIFF'S--
THE PUNISHER, THEY CALL HIM.
FINE, THE PUNISHER SHERIFF'S MAGIC ORB IS ONLY SPENDING ONE DAY HERE BEFORE HIS AGENTS COME TO COLLECT IT. IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE--WE DON'T HAVE A CHOICE.

GOD DOOM'S CATHEDRAL.
WELCOME, WELCOME, MY GOOD LAMBS. YOU'VE ARRIVED JUST IN TIME FOR THE END OF MATINS BEFORE A TOUR OF OUR NEWLY COMPLETED FRESCO. WE COULD NOT HAVE ACCOMPLISHED IT WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT, OF COURSE.

READY, GENTLEMEN?
MAYBE SOME LESS SHOWY MAGIC NEXT TIME, BILLY?
EVERYONE'S A CRITIC.

THIS FEELS TOO EASY.
WE'RE SCALING A FLYING BUTTRESS.
I'M JUST SAYING, LADY KATE.
A FLYING BUTTRESS.
WELL.
WELL WHAT, WILLIAM?
WELL, HE'S NOT WRONG.
SEE?
UNBELIEVABLE-- YOU'RE ALWAYS ON HIS SIDE.
WELL, TEDDY NEVER MAKES ME CLIMB CATHEDRALS TO STEAL STUFF WHILE THE PUNISHER SHERIFF IS LOOKING FOR ME.
HOW COME YOU DIDN'T MANAGE TO LEARN ANY TRICKS FROM THAT WEIRD CIRCUS DRIFTER LIKE KATE?
SOME OF US HAD CHORES.
AND SERIOUSLY, DON'T LET ANYONE SEE YOU USE THAT MAGIC, BILLY. YOU KNOW WHAT THEY'LL DO.
ENOUGH CHIT-CHAT. THERE'S TREASURE TO STEAL!

SHAME ABOUT THESE PRETTY WINDOWS...
I THINK MAYBE FIVE SACKS.
THERE IS NO WAY SHE IS FITTING FIVE SACKS.
DID YOU NOT SEE THAT DRESS? SHE COULD FIT FIVE SACKS UNDER THERE.
NOT IF IT'S POINTY STUFF.
THIS CATHEDRAL IS A FORTRESS--IT WOULDN'T BE HIDDEN HERE. THIS ORB WOULD BE IN PRIDE OF PLACE, IT WOULD--
LOOK OUT THE WINDOW

I KNEW YOU COULDN'T RESIST SUCH A BAUBLE.
PACK AS MUCH AS YOU CAN AND GET READY TO RUN! IT WAS A TRAP--THEY'RE WAITING OUTSIDE FOR US!
BRING HER IN... BY *ANY MEANS NECESSARY.*

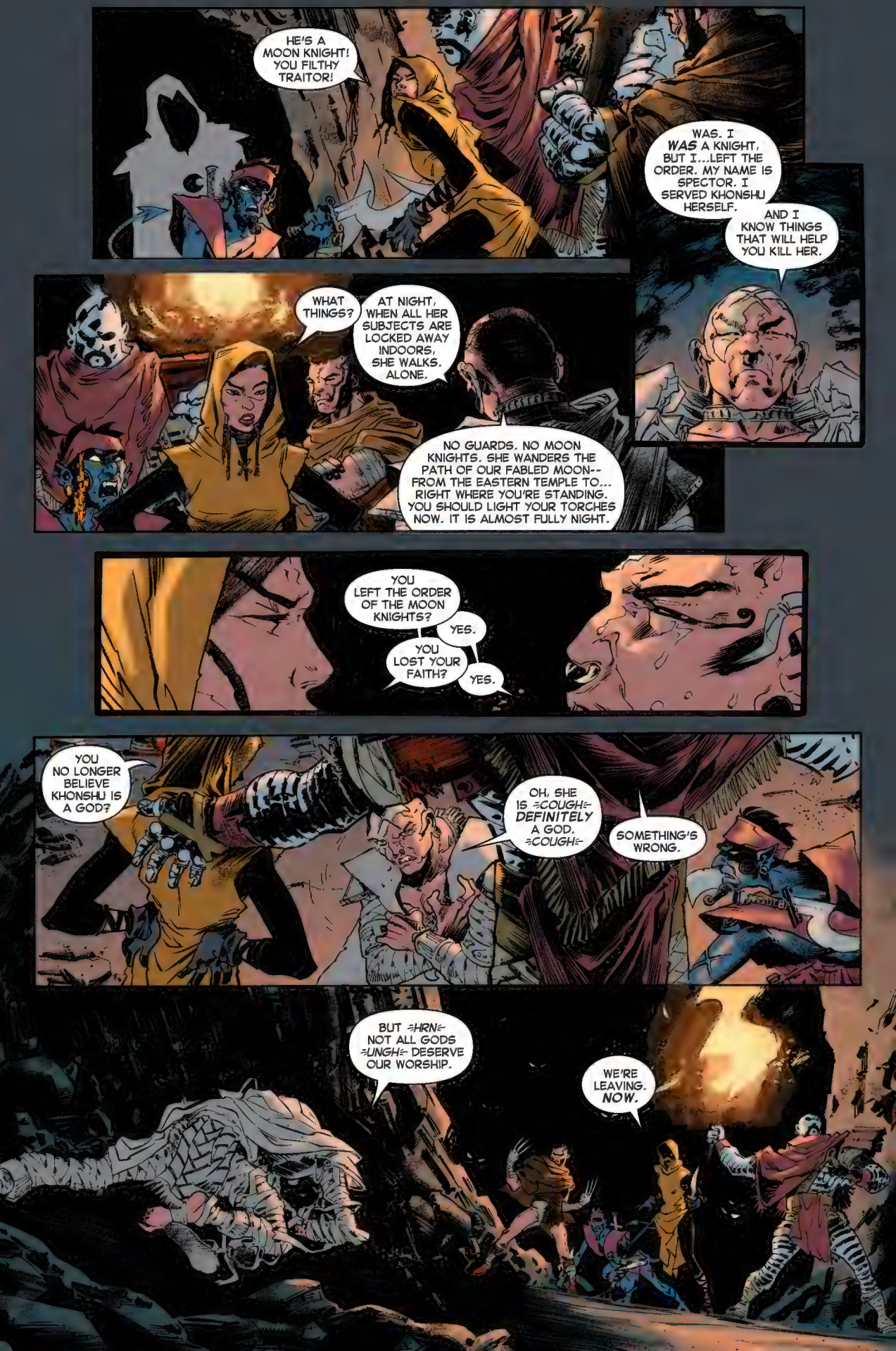
THE SHERIFF MUST HAVE 200 MEN OUT THERE.
EVEN WITH MAGIC, EVEN WITH YOUR ARROWS, THERE'S NO CHANCE WE CAN FIGHT OUR WAY OUT.
AFTER I JUMP, YOU TWO GET FAR AWAY AS FAST AS YOU CAN, WITH AS MUCH TREASURE AS YOU CAN TAKE. BILLY, SEND UP A GREEN FLARE WHEN YOU GET TO SAFETY.
SAFETY?
JUMP?

LADY KATHERINE OF BISHOP.
SHERIFF.
YOU'LL GO TO THE SHIELD FOR THIS-- STEALING FROM DOOM.
SURE LOOKS LIKE IT.
HOPE IT'S WORTH IT, MY LADY.
IT MOST ASSUREDLY IS.
SEE MORE OF LADY KATE IN SIEGE #1! -SIR JAKE OF THOMAS

EGYPTIA.
WE SHOULD LEAVE WHILE WE CAN.
HE'LL BE HERE, ARCHANGEL.
IF HE'S CAUGHT TRAVELING NOW--
SHADOWCAT SAYS WE WAIT, WE WAIT.
KNOCK KNOCK
BLINDFOLD?
OPEN IT.
IT'S HIM.
TIME TO GO. YOU READY?
WE ARE.
NOW?! IT'S ALMOST DARK. THE TIMING IS NO GOOD.
I WON'T BE A SLAVE TO KHONSHU ANOTHER NIGHT. MUTANTKIND WILL NOT BE ENSLAVED--
IF YOU GET CAUGHT LEAVING THE CAMP NOW, KHONSHU WILL HAVE THE WHOLE MOVEMENT AT THE GALLOWS COME MORNING.
WE'RE GOING OFF TO KILL A GOD. CURFEW ISN'T WHAT YOU NEED TO BE SCARED OF TONIGHT.

HOLD.
WHAT IN THE NAME OF OSIRIS IS THIS?! YOU CAN'T SEE THE DARKNESS FALLING?
OR DID YOU THREE SLAVES THINK BECAUSE YOU DON'T WORSHIP KHONSHU YOU DON'T HAVE TO FOLLOW HER LAWS?
NOW YOU'LL SEE WHAT BECOMES OF SLAVES WHO GET TOO BOLD!
NOW.
NO GODS. NO MASTERS.
NIGHTCRAWLER. COME.

LOGAN...THAT SCAR...WHY HAVEN'T YOU HEALED?
THEY CAN BE KILLED, BUT THE GODS DON'T GO GENTLY. THEY CAN DO THINGS EVEN OUR PEOPLE CAN'T IMAGINE.
OUR WHOLE MOVEMENT DEPENDS ON TONIGHT. YOU TRUST THIS MAN?
YOU DIDN'T ASK ME TO FIND A MAN I COULD TRUST. YOU ASKED ME TO FIND A MAN WHO COULD GET US KHONSHU.
TELL THE BIG ONE TO PUT OUT THE TORCH.
WE DON'T NEED THAT, COLOSSUS. MY NIGHTCRAWLER WILL BE OUR EYES.
BUT THE DARKNESS... IT'S SO COLD.
I KNOW. I FEEL IT TOO.
I'M SORRY. THEY ALL FOLLOWED HER LAWS. THEY'VE NEVER SEEN THE NIGHT BEFORE.
HAVE YOU?
TELL ME ABOUT THIS MAN.
HE KNOWS THE MOON GODDESS. HE'LL TELL YOU THE REST.
THE WOLVERINE IS CORRECT. I KNOW HER WELL.


HE'S A MOON KNIGHT! YOU FILTHY TRAITOR!
WAS. I WAS A KNIGHT, BUT I...LEFT THE ORDER. MY NAME IS SPECTOR. I SERVED KHONSHU HERSELF.
AND I KNOW THINGS THAT WILL HELP YOU KILL HER.
WHAT THINGS?
AT NIGHT, WHEN ALL HER SUBJECTS ARE LOCKED AWAY INDOORS, SHE WALKS. ALONE.
NO GUARDS. NO MOON KNIGHTS. SHE WANDERS THE PATH OF OUR FABLED MOON-- FROM THE EASTERN TEMPLE TO... RIGHT WHERE YOU'RE STANDING. YOU SHOULD LIGHT YOUR TORCHES NOW. IT IS ALMOST FULLY NIGHT.
YOU LEFT THE ORDER OF THE MOON KNIGHTS?
YES.
YOU LOST YOUR FAITH?
YES.
YOU NO LONGER BELIEVE KHONSHU IS A GOD?
OH, SHE IS =COUGH= DEFINITELY A GOD. =COUGH=
SOMETHING'S WRONG.
BUT =HRN= NOT ALL GODS =UNGH= DESERVE OUR WORSHIP.
WE'RE LEAVING. NOW.

AWWWoooooooo
IT'S TOO LATE! YOU NEVER CONSIDERED THAT THE CURFEW WAS FOR YOUR OWN GOOD, DID YOU? THE NIGHT ISN'T FOR PEOPLE LIKE YOU.
THE NIGHT ISN'T FOR *PEOPLE AT ALL.*

NO MORE!
ENOUGH.
YOU'RE... HER. YOU'RE KHONSHU.
AND YOU ARE MY ASSASSINS, CORRECT? YOU CAME INTO MY GLORIOUS NIGHT WHERE I AM SWORN TO PROTECT YOU. YOU TRAVELLED THROUGH MY MAJESTIC DESERT, FOUGHT OFF FIERCE MAN-WOLVES, ALL SO YOU COULD KILL ME?
WHY?
AND?
WE'RE SLAVES. MY PEOPLE. WE ARE THE SLAVES WHO BUILD YOUR TEMPLES.
AND WE DON'T WANT TO BE SLAVES ANYMORE.
THE MIGHTY PYRAMIDS YOU BUILD WILL LAST FOR EONS. YOU CREATE GREATNESS. THAT IS MY GIFT TO YOU.
WE DON'T WANT TO BE MADE TO WORSHIP YOU ANYMORE.
MADE TO WORSHIP? DO YOU DOUBT MY GODHOOD?
NO.
SLAVES. LORDS. THESE TITLES MEAN NOTHING. YOUR LIVES LAST BUT A BRIEF MOMENT, WHY SPEND THAT TIME PLOTTING AGAINST YOUR OWN GODS? IT IS LIKE A FISH TRYING TO KILL A RIVER.
TELL ME ONE THING...

"...DO ALL THE SLAVES WISH ME DEAD?"
SADLY, MY NIGHTCRAWLER DID NOT SURVIVE. BUT THE REST OF US...KHONSHU *SAVED* US.
THIS CAN'T BE REAL.
WHY WOULD WE BELIEVE YOU *TRAITORS?!*
YOU BEAR HER MARK!
IF IT WASN'T FOR THE GREAT KHONSHU NONE OF US WOULD HAVE SURVIVED.
AND WHAT ABOUT OUR PLANS? OUR REBELLION? WHAT ABOUT OUR FREEDOM?
KHONSHU HAS SHOWN ME...
...THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SLAVE AND LORD TO KHONSHU. WE ARE ALL GIVEN THE GIFT OF BEING ALLOWED TO OFFER GREATNESS IN HER HONOR.
WE SHOULD TAKE IT.
KHONSHU DIDN'T SAVE YOU! SHE WOULD NEVER SAVE ANYONE!
KHONSHU IS NOT SOME *MERCIFUL GOD!*

SHE DID =COUGH= SAVE US...
...BUT IT WAS NO MERCY.
END.

MINUTEMEN
Blutman